

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ A device comprising:

- a support ~~having~~ comprising a surface comprising an attachment zone (Z) capable of being functionalized with a probe (A) capable of binding to a target (B) so as to attach it;
- a working electrode (WE) and a counterelectrode (CE) for ~~this~~ the working electrode, placed on the support in the vicinity of the attachment zone, ~~in which~~ wherein the working electrode borders or surrounds the attachment zone; and
- a means for applying a given electric current or a given potential to said working electrode so as to cause, when said attachment zone and said electrodes are immersed in an aqueous solution, a local variation in pH in the region of said attachment zone.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Device according to~~ The device of Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the working electrode borders or surrounds the attachment zone, and wherein the counterelectrode borders or surrounds said working electrode.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Device according to~~ The device of Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the working electrode, the counterelectrode and the attachment zone are in a design ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of an interdigitated comb design, a spiral design and a concentric design.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~Device according to~~ The device of Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the means for applying a given electric current or a given potential to said working electrode are means for applying one or more given current or potential train(s) for one or more given period(s) of time.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~Device according to~~ The device of Claim 1, ~~also~~ further comprising a reference electrode placed so as to be able to measure the potential applied to the working electrode.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device of ~~according to~~ Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the attachment zone is in the form of an electrode.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device of ~~according to~~ Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the attachment zone is functionalized with the probe (A) capable of binding, according to the pH, to the target (B) so as to attach it.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device of ~~according to~~ Claim 7, ~~in which~~ wherein the probe ~~is such that it~~ is capable of binding to the target so as to attach it by ~~means~~ of an electrophilic or nucleophilic group.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device of ~~according to~~ Claim 7, ~~in which~~ wherein the probe is capable of binding to the target so as to attach it by ~~means of~~ an electrophilic group ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of aldehyde, halide, thiocyanate, isocyanate, activated ester, carbamate and epoxide functions.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device of ~~according to~~ Claim 7, ~~in which~~ wherein the probe is ~~such that it is~~ capable of binding to the target so as to attach it by ~~means~~

of a nucleophilic group ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of amine, alkoxide, phenol, phenate, oxyamine and hydrazine functions.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device of according to Claim 7, in which wherein the probe is chosen such that it can form, in the working solution, with the target molecule so as to attach it, a bond ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of [[a]] hydrogen, peptide, amide, sulphonamide, carboxylic acid ester, sulphonic acid ester ~~or~~ and substituted silanoate bond.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device of according to Claim 7, in which wherein the attachment zone is functionalized with a probe ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of an oligonucleotide, a protein, an enzyme, an enzyme substrate, a hormone receptor, a hormone, an antibody, an antigen, a eukaryotic cell, ~~or~~ a prokaryotic cell, ~~or~~ fragments at least one fragment of ~~such cells~~ a eukaryotic cell, at least one fragment of a prokaryotic cell, an alga ~~or~~ and a microscopic fungus.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method of purifying, concentrating, screening, or detecting a target comprising

purifying, concentrating, screening, or detecting the target with the device of claim 1

~~Use of a device according to any one of Claims 1 to 12, in a method intended to purify, concentrate, screen or detect a target or an object.~~

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method for attaching a target (B), present in an aqueous sample, to a probe (A), ~~said method comprising the following steps:~~

a) bringing the aqueous sample into contact with the attachment zone of ~~[[a]]~~ the device ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, functionalized with the probe (A) capable of binding, according to the pH, to the target (B) so as to attach it; and

b) applying an electric current or a potential to the working electrode of said device so as to locally modify, in the region of said attachment zone, the pH of the aqueous sample such that the probe recognizes and binds specifically to the target so as to attach it.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method for attaching and detaching a target (B), present in an aqueous sample, to and from a probe (A), ~~said method comprising the following steps:~~

a') bringing the aqueous sample comprising the target (B) into contact with the attachment zone of a device according to Claim 1, functionalized with the probe (A), such that the target (B) attaches to said probe; and

b') applying an electric current or potential to the working electrode of said device so as to locally modify, in the region of said attachment zone, the pH of the working solution such that the target (B) detaches from the probe (A).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~Method according to~~ The method of Claim 16, ~~in which~~ wherein the attachment of the target by the probe in step a') is carried out by applying an electric current or a potential to the working electrode of said device so as to locally modify, in the region of said attachment zone, the pH of the working solution such that the target (B) attaches to said probe (A).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~Method according to Claim 15 or 16~~ The method of claim 15, also comprising the following step further comprising, before or after the attachment of the target by the probe:

(x) ~~attachment of~~ attaching an object to the target.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~Method according to~~ The method of Claim 18, ~~in which~~ wherein the object is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of a molecule, a cell; a bacterium; functionalized beads; a protein; an oligonucleotide; an enzyme; an antibody; a biological fragment; molecules to be transfected; molecules of biological interest; active principles; and molecules of pharmacological interest.

Claim 20 (Current Amended): The method ~~Method according to~~ of Claim 18, ~~in which~~ wherein the object is a label for detecting the target, and wherein said method further comprises ~~also comprising a step consisting in~~ detecting the labelled target.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~Method according to~~ The method of Claim 15 ~~or 16~~, ~~in which~~ wherein the sample comprising the target is in the form of a buffered aqueous solution.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~Method according to~~ The method of Claim 15 ~~or 16~~, ~~in which~~ wherein the target and the probe are oligonucleotides complementary to one another.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method of ~~according to~~ Claim 20, ~~in~~  
~~which~~ wherein the probe ~~carries a~~ comprises biotin, and wherein the target is labelled with  
streptavidin-phycoerythrin.

Claims 24-26 (Cancelled).